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N ELEMENTARY  
MOLE GRAMMAR

R. S. RATTRAY

OXFORD  
AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

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# AN ELEMENTARY MŌLE GRAMMAR

WITH A

VOCABULARY OF OVER 1000 WORDS

*For the use of Officials in the Northern Territories of the  
Gold Coast*

COMPILED BY

R. S. RATTRAY, M.B.E.,

DIP. ANTH. (OXFORD), OF GRAY'S INN BARRISTER AT LAW

DISTRICT POLITICAL OFFICER

AUTHOR OF

'HAUSA FOLK-LORE,' 'CHINYANJA FOLK-LORE,' 'ASHANTI PROVERBS'

QUALIFIED INTERPRETER IN HAUSA, TŴI, (ASHANTI),

CHINYANJA, MŌLE

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**DÉDIÉ**  
**AU LIEUTENANT-COLONEL FOURN**  
**OFFICIER DE LA LÉGION D'HONNEUR**  
**COMMISSAIRE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE**  
**AU TOGO**  
**EN SIGNE DE MON ADMIRATION**  
**ET DE MON RESPECT**  
**ET**  
**EN SOUVENIR**  
**DE L'OCCUPATION**  
**ANGLO-FRANÇAISE**  
**DU TOGO**  
**DURANT LA GRANDE GUERRE**





## INTRODUCTION

If the writer were asked to name in order of importance the three languages likely to be of most value to Officials and others in the Gold Coast Colony (Gold Coast being here taken to include Ashanti and the Northern Territories) he would place his choice in the following order :

- (1) Ashanti (including the dialects of Twi and Fantee).
- (2) Hausa.
- (3) Mole (the language of the Moshis).

(Were the Northern Territories alone being considered the order would be reversed.)

Exception to the above list might be taken on two grounds. Firstly, owing to the omission from it of any language peculiar to the Coast proper, e.g. Ga or Accra, and secondly for the inclusion of a language spoken by a people no part of whose country is even under British protection.

The writer's reasons for his choice are briefly these :

(1) Ashanti. This language is placed first on the list as a knowledge of it will often enable one to converse with a Hausa man. The Hausa is essentially a trader, and as such he must know something of the language of the people with whom he trades. So it is; many Hausas have a useful knowledge of Ashanti, while on the other hand the converse does not hold good.

(2) Hausa. This language as a second string is of great value. Armed with a good colloquial knowledge of these two languages the Official will go through his tour with

additional pleasure both to himself and to the natives with whom he comes in contact.

With regard to the omission of Ga or Accra, it is merely necessary to state, that the Coast is rapidly becoming so Anglicized, and its natives so well educated, that among all the elements of its population English, or at any rate pidgin-English, is the general language in use.

So much for the writer's sins of omission ; now to justify, or attempt to do so, those of commission.

A glance at statistics showing the nature and extent of our trade from the north will show that the most important is cattle. A fair estimate is, 30,000<sup>1</sup> a year at a value of about £120,000. Trade statistics and a grammar do not appear at first sight to have much connexion with each other. The reason for bracketing the two in this case is that these £120,000 worth of cattle come chiefly from Moshiland and are brought down by Moshi men, women, and children.

Apart from this cattle trade, Moshi settlements are increasing year by year and this foreign element bids fair soon to equal the alien Hausa Zongos, now found in almost every town and village of any size, in the Colony.

Again, the enormous demand for labour, for transport, for railway and road construction, is rapidly inducing thousands of Moshis to leave their country and seek work here.

The above brief and bare statements of facts are the writer's excuse for offering to a larger public and his colleagues in West Africa the results of his own individual studies in his endeavour to master this language, a language which at the present time, it can be more or less confidently stated, is known to hardly any European residents of this Colony. Not only can we not speak the tongue of these

<sup>1</sup> During 1913, 27,000 passed through Ejura alone.—R. S. R.

strangers but they are also unfamiliar with ours. (The few Moshis who have 'listed as horse-boys, cooks' mates, &c., can be eliminated from this calculation.) The Ashanti cannot speak Môle and the converse too is the case. A small percentage of the Moshis only understand Hausa, and vice versa. To be a stranger in a strange land and to have difficulty in gaining the ear of, and stating his case accurately to any one in authority, must often entail much hardship and not a little unavoidable miscarriage of justice. Just at present the Moshi man is looked at with none too partial an eye either by white or black. An Ashanti, when he wants a particularly scathing simile, will say 'Even a Moshi', and should death have carried off one of his children after another, in final desperation he will name his surviving offspring suffixing the word Moshi to its ordinary name, in hopes that the '*obayifo*' (witch or sorcerer) will pass such by in disgust, as unworthy even of the exercise upon it of his or her black magic.

Among Europeans the Moshi is considered a bit of a rascal and a great thief, in all of which there may be some element of truth, but when one gets to know him he is rather a lovable rascal, and as for his reputed thieving propensities one who has difficulty in stating his own case and is in the peculiar circumstances in which the Moshi finds himself here, is not likely to be given too good a character, in fact it will often be said 'the cat must have done it', when it was not the cat at all.

Moshiland lies roughly between 11° and 13° N. Lat. and 2° to 5° W. Long. and is a part of our French allies' Colonial Empire in Africa.

The language itself would appear to be one of a group which comprises Dagomba, Dagarti, Mamprussi, Wala, Fura-Fura (Fra-Fra).

*So near akin are these five languages, or perhaps dialects, to Môle, that a very little practice will enable one who is conversant with the last-named to speak and understand any of the other five. As all these five mentioned are spoken in the Northern Territories the value of a knowledge of Môle to any one who is an official in that hinterland is too obvious to require insistence on.*

*Môle* (the language has hitherto been spoken of, and written as '*Moshi*', but this is wrong, '*Moshi*' is the plural of *Moaga* and means *Moshi men*) falls under that group of languages which are classed as agglutinative.

The student will find his chief trouble in the mastery of this really far from difficult language in the extent to which syllables and letters are cut either from the middle or end of words, but a little practice will soon make him familiar with the spoken words, which have suffered this syncopation or elision.

The notes and remarks on pronunciation and the signs used to denote sounds that cannot conveniently be represented by ordinary letters, have been reduced to a minimum. The writer always has found that half an hour with a native teacher who will pronounce each word as the student names it from the book is worth chapters on rules for pronunciation.

This little book is a considerably revised and enlarged edition of a '*Môle-English Vocabulary, with Notes on the Grammar and Syntax*', which was written early in 1912 and for which the writer received a grant which the generosity of the Gold Coast Government gives to encourage these studies. In that treatise the writer stated: '*The whole of the present vocabulary with the notes on grammar and syntax have been collected and compiled first hand, no previous grammar, vocabulary, or other work (in fact the writer knows of none) having been consulted.*'

Since writing the above, and before the present work went to press, the writer has seen the work by Monsieur F. Froger, entitled *Étude sur la Langue des Mossi*. With this excellent and scholarly treatise he has been able to compare the results of his own investigations, verify and occasionally rectify errors in his own work that were almost inseparable from a pioneer attempt at reducing to writing and the elucidation of the grammar and syntax of a hitherto unstudied language. He would strongly recommend any student of the present little book to study also Froger's work.

The present writer has also had the great advantage of having the assistance of a Moshi, who, though ignorant of English, was well acquainted with Hausa, a language the author knew, the method employed throughout being the translation of Hausa words and idioms into Môle, these again finally being rendered into terms of English.

For the third separate occasion the writer has to acknowledge the generosity of the Colonial Government in granting a subvention to assist in the publication of this little work, and his sincere thanks are accorded to His Excellency Sir Hugh Clifford K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander in Chief, on whose recommendation the grant was made.

The Clarendon Press have again laid the author under a deep obligation to them by their generous assistance and advice.

R. S. R.

MISAHÖHE, TOGOLAND  
(Under Anglo-French Occupation).

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## THE ALPHABET

THE Mōle alphabet contains twenty-four letters (consonants and vowels). These twenty-four letters, however, represent more than twenty-four sounds.

Vowels may be nasal, open, or close, and some of the consonants have also each two different sounds.

These variations require some symbol to represent them. The following have been employed.

### CONSONANTS :

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Pronunciation in Mōle</i>
b	As in English
c	Always in conjunction with <i>h</i> , i. e. <i>ch</i> , as in <i>church</i>
d	As in English
f	As in English
g ; g'	Hard always, as in <i>get</i> ; <i>g'</i> = explosive
h	As in English
j	Always soft, as French <i>j</i> in <i>je</i>
k	As in English
l	As in English, but before <i>o</i> and <i>iu</i> as in French <i>l</i> in <i>lui</i> (that is with the semi-vowel <i>w</i> )
m	As in English
n ; ñ	As in English ; ñ = <i>ng</i> as in <i>sing</i>

*Letter**Pronunciation in Môle*

p ; p'	As in English ; p' explosive
r	As in English, interchangeable with l
s	As in English
t ; t'	As in English ; t' explosive
v	As in English
w	As in English
y	As in English
z	As in English

## VOWELS

*Letter**Pronunciation in Môle*

a	As a in <i>fat</i>
ā	As a in <i>father</i>
ã	Nasal
e	As a in <i>fate</i>
ē	As e in <i>there</i>
ẽ	Nasal
i	As i in <i>fill</i>
ī	As e in English, as i in Italian
ĩ	Nasal
o	As o in <i>tobacco</i>
ō	As o in <i>or</i>
õ	Nasal
u	As French <i>ou</i>

The following are a few short notes on pronunciation, &c. They have purposely been made as brief as possible. The student is recommended from the very first lesson to secure the services of a native teacher to whom he will pronounce a word as best he can.





When the native has grasped the meaning of the word the student is trying to pronounce, let the teacher pronounce the word again and again till the student has thoroughly learned the correct pronunciation. Once he has done so he will ever after, on meeting the word in print, give it its correct pronunciation irrespective of the orthography an author has employed. Without a native teacher to learn from the most elaborate system, employing signs, dashes, dots, numbers, or other symbols to represent all the slight variations in the sound of letters, in accent, and intonation can never be of much value to students who are living in the country whose language they are learning; for once the correct pronunciation has been acquired in the best of all possible ways, from the lips of a native, all these artificial symbols become superfluous and serve to confuse rather than assist the reader.

(1) **Elision, apocope, syncope, and assimilation** are all marked features in this language and seem inseparable adjuncts to the spoken words.

**Elision** is the suppression of a final vowel (*a, ie, e*) or syllable before a letter in the word following :

e. g. *zams' mam Mōle* for *zamse mam Mōle*.

*Mosh' nāba* for *Moshi nāba*.

**Apocope.** The cutting off of the final letter or syllable in a word.

(a) Where the final letter is a consonant ;

e. g. *ko' = kom*.

(b) Where the final letter is a vowel :

e. g. *f° = fo*, *bamm' = bamma*.

(c) Where the part cut off is a syllable :

e. g. *fu' pim* = *fugu-pim*, *bi'-pugla*, *biga-pugla*.

The personal pronouns *m'* = *mam*, *ton* = *tondo*.

**Syncope.** The omission of a letter or letters from the middle of a word :

e. g. *ya'l'ma* = *yalema*, *tule* = *tulame*.

**Assimilation**, e. g. *nyetta* for *nyetda*, *yetta* for *yedda*, *yelda*, &c.

**The Accent.** As a general rule in disyllables the accent is on the first syllable, in words of more than two syllables on the penultimate syllable.

**Interchangeability of Letters.** Many letters are interchangeable ; *k* with *p*, *b* with *p*, *t* with *d*, and *d* with *r* and *l*, *s* with *r*, *d* with *n*, *r* with *l*, &c.

When a consonant is doubled in a word the syllables are to be distinctly pronounced :

e. g. *dilla* pronounce *dil-la*.







## CHAPTER I

### THE NOUN AND THE FORMATION OF THE PLURAL

A FEW nouns form their plural irregularly, some again have the same form for both singular and plural, but the greater number seem to form their plural according to rules that it is possible to define clearly.

These rules for the formation of the plural of nouns (and which hold good also for adjectives) are here briefly stated. The points which determine the plural of a noun (or adjective) seem to be two; first, the final vowel (which is also the last letter in nearly all cases); and, secondly, what may be termed the dominant or characteristic consonant, *not that in the root*.

For example, taking the noun *kwaiga*, we have a final vowel, *a*, *kwai* the root, and *g*, the characteristic consonant.

The following are the eight classes into which the noun or adjective fall.

#### CLASS I

Most nouns and adjectives which end in *a*, and have the letter *g*, *g'* (explosive), *n*, *k*, or *l* as the characteristic consonant, form their plural by changing *a* into *shi* or *si*, sometimes coupled with syncopation or change of the

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characteristic consonant, and also syncopation or change of the root vowel.

### Examples (Class I)

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Kwaiga	Kwaishi	news
Moāga <sup>1</sup>	Moshi	Moshi
Bāga	Bāshi	a dog
Bwonga	Bwonshi	a donkey
Tēa	Tēnshi	a town
Kuka	Kugusi	a wooden shoe
Fika	Figsi	a fan
Lulla	Lulshi	a young bull
Pialga	Pelshi	white
Nweña	Nweñshi	bad, wicked

### CLASS II <sup>2</sup>

Most nouns and adjectives ending in *o* or *u* and having the consonants *g*, *g'* (explosive), or *k*, as their characteristic letter, form their plural by changing *go*, *g'o*, *ko*, or *gu*, *g'u*, *ku*, into *do* (or *to*), and *du* (or *tu*), accompanied sometimes by a change of vowel or consonant in the root.

(Note.—A few nouns ending in *o* and with *b* as characteristic consonant also form their plural by changing *bo* into *do*.)

<sup>1</sup> Moāga is a Moshi man. Plural, Moshi, Moshi men. Mōle is the language, Mōgo, the country, Moshiland.

<sup>2</sup> Note the following exceptions:

*Bugō* ? which ? ; plu. *bashi* ?  
*Pyekko*, corner ; plu. *pyegeshi*.





**Examples (Class II)**

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Gongo	Gando	a skin
Wobogo	Wobodo	an elephant
Pugo	Putto	a farm
Fugu	Futtu	a cloth
Miugu	Midu	red
Sakko	Sagado	rubbish
Nyintogo	Nyintodo	day, sun
Buglaug'o	Buglado	a gun
Gangaugo	Gangado	a drum

**CLASS III**

Nouns and adjectives which end in *i* or *e*, and which have *l* or *ll* as their characteristic consonant, form their plural by changing *i* or *e* into *a*, and where the singular had two *l*'s dropping one.

**Examples (Class III)**

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Killi	Kila	bundle (of wood or grass)
Nele	Nea ( <i>l</i> omitted)	good, fine
Palle	Pala	new
Gelle	Gela	an egg

**CLASS IV**

Nouns and adjectives which end in *i* or *e*, and have *d* or *r* as the characteristic consonant, form their plural by changing *i* or *e* into *a* or *ya* and dropping the *d* or *r*, and occasionally change of the root consonant.

**Examples (Class IV)**

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Dundi	Duma	knee
Jilimde	Jilima	tongue
Kande	Kana	spear
Gure	Guya	kola-nut
Gere	Geya	thigh

**CLASS V**

Most nouns and adjectives ending in *a*, and having *b*, *m*, *p*, or *s* as the characteristic consonant, form their plural by suffixing *ramma* (*namma*) to the singular.

**Examples (Class V)**

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Ba	Banamma	father
Komsa	Komsramma	weak, infirm
Bwosa	Bwosramma	beggar
Nasara	Nasardamma	European
Nyaudsoba	Nyadamma	glutton
Pugdba	Pugdnamma	aunt
Sama	Samdamma	father

**CLASS VI**

Nouns and adjectives which end in *da* or *ta* in the singular form their plural by inserting the letter *b* between these letters, i. e. *dba*, *tba*.







**Examples (Class VI)**

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Da'nyuda	Da'nyudba	drunkard
Leabda	Leabdba	hawker
Nomda	Nomdba	tanner
Somitta	Somitba	guide

**CLASS VII**

Some nouns ending in *re* (*le*) or *rhe* (not to be confused with those of Class IV, q. v.) form their plural by changing *re* (*le*) or *rhe* into *a*.

**Examples (Class VII)**

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Wagadre	Wagada	thief
Naudre	Nauda	sandal
Beñrhe	Beña	bean
Salav(e)le	Salaba	bridle

**CLASS VIII**

Nouns and adjectives whose singular ends in *fu* change *fu* into *ĩ* to form their plural (the final vowel *i* in the root of some words being elided).

**Examples (Class VIII)**

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Sĩfu	Sĩ	bee
Bilifu	Bĩ <sup>1</sup>	little

<sup>1</sup> Also a plural bologo.

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The following nouns and adjectives form their plural irregularly : *Biga*, plu. *kama*, youth. *Kafo*, plu. *ki*, grain. *Nāfo*, plu. *nishi*, ox. *Lagāfo*, plu. *ligidi*, cowries. *Wefo*, plu. *widi*, horse. *Wāfo*, plu. *wishi*, make. *P'aga*, plu. *pagaba*, woman. *Pesogo*, *pishi*, sheep.

---

The following nouns, among others, have the same form for the singular and plural :

*Kum*, corpse. *Kōm*, water. *Mwi*, rice.

Most such nouns, however, owe their want of a plural to their meaning.

---

Adjectives are not inflected for gender. In the case of nouns when a word is common gender but it is wished to emphasize the sex, then the words, *raugo*, male, and *nyanga*, female, are added to the noun.

e. g. *wedraugo*, horse ; *wednyanga*, mare.

---

**Change in form of noun when qualified by an adjective :**

It has been seen that the same rules which govern the formation of the plural of nouns also in most cases apply to adjectives. This is the only inflexion the adjective suffers, it having no gender inflexion.

It is necessary, however, to note here the change the form of *the noun* undergoes when it is qualified by (i. e. in Mōle, precedes) an adjective.

This change is sometimes so marked as to alter the noun almost past recognition, indeed the present writer was so led astray at first by noticing these changes as to imagine the altered form of the noun to be a concord or





pronominal prefix, such as is found in Bantu languages. It does not seem possible to formulate any simple rules by which these changes could be accounted for (no doubt the science of phonetics would explain much). The student will therefore have to become familiar with them by constant practice only. Some examples are here given :

<i>Noun when standing alone</i>	<i>When qualified by an adjective</i>			
	<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
	<i>Noun</i>	<i>Adjective</i>	<i>Noun</i>	<i>Adjective</i>
neda, <i>plu.</i> neba	nin	weng	nin	wenshi
p'aga, <i>plu.</i> pagaba	pog	nere	pog	nea
bondo, <i>plu.</i> —	bon	kasanga	bon	kasanshi
wobogo, <i>plu.</i> wo- bodo	wob	berle	wob	beda
wefo, <i>plu.</i> widi	wed	pialga	wed	pelshi
biga, <i>plu.</i> kama	big	kwaiga	kam	kwaishi
yisi, <i>plu.</i> yia	yi	bila	yī	bi
nyongo, <i>plu.</i> nem- do	nyen	pōsogo	nyen	pōsodo
pesogo, <i>plu.</i> pishi	pe	wagere	pe	waga
gelle, <i>plu.</i> gela	gel	gilli	gel	gila
jilimde, <i>plu.</i> jilima	jilim	miugu	jilim	midu
wafo, <i>plu.</i> wishi	wage	wokko	wage	wogodo
suri, <i>plu.</i> suya	sin (sun)	wenga	sin (sun)	wenshi

## CHAPTER II

### THE PRONOUNS

#### (1) THE PERSONAL PRONOUNS

IN common with many other African languages, in Mōle the form of the personal pronoun varies slightly according as to whether it stands alone (i. e. as in the answer to the question who ? or whom ?), or is connected with the verb.

The personal pronoun in Mōle is not inflected for gender.

(a) The following are the forms when standing alone. The forms are the same for nominative and accusative :

##### *Singular*

Mam	I or me
Fom	Thou

A (sometimes Nye), he, she, it, him, her, it

##### *Plural*

Tondo	We, us
Nyamma	You
Bamma	They, them

(b) When connected with the verb the final letter or letters are cut off (apocope) and the pronoun is then as follows :







*Singular*

M'	I
F'	Thou
A	He, she, it

*Plural*

Tond', Ton' or d' <sup>1</sup> or r'	We
Nyam', yi or ri	You
Bam' B'	They

Note in Mōle the second person plural is always used for the second person singular when an inferior addresses a superior; the wife will also employ this *pluralis excellentiae* when speaking to her husband, but he uses the singular.

The suffix *ya* found in the second person plural of the imperative mood is possibly a form of the second person plural of the personal pronoun, i. e. *Nyamma*. (Cf. a similar construction in French.)

(2) THE EMPHATIC PRONOUNS are formed by suffixing *meña* (plu. *mense*), or *tore* to the forms of the personal pronoun as given above (a).

*Singular*

Mam meña	Mam tore	I myself
Fo' meña	Fo' tore	Thou thyself
A (or nye) meña	A (or nye) tore	He himself, she herself, itself

<sup>1</sup> d, r', for t.

*Plural*

Tond' meña (or meñse)	Tond' tore	We ourselves
Nyam' „ „	Nyam' „	&c.
Bam' „ „	Bam' „	&c.

With the form in *tore*, there seems an alternative form which, besides prefixing the pronouns *mam*, *fom*, &c., also gives the form as coupled with the verb (*b*) above; the full phrase then being:

Mam m' tore  
 Fom f' tore  
 Nye a tore  
 &c., &c.

(This would seem to point to *tore* being of the nature of a verb.)

## (3) THE REFLEXIVE PRONOUN

The reflexive pronoun is expressed by the use of the word *meña* placed after the verb:

Mam noña meña	I love myself
A nwaga meña	He cut himself

The form of the pronoun as used with the verb (*vide* 1 *b*) is sometimes added; e. g.:

Mam noña m'meña  
 A nwaga a meña.

(4) THE RECIPROCAL PRONOUN is formed by using the expression *tāba*, together, coupled with the personal pronoun:





Ton' . . . tāba	We . . . each other
Nyam' . . . „	You . . . „ „
&c.	

*Ton' non(a) tāba*, we love each other.

N.B.—*Ne tāba*, is to do a thing together, in company with, *ton cheñame ne tāba*.

(5) THE POSSESSIVE PRONOUN is formed in two ways :

(A) By suffixing *dilla* (*rilla*) to the personal pronoun.

(B) By suffixing *so* (really a verb, to possess) to the same form, e. g. :

Mam-dilla	or mam-so	Mine
Fo-rilla	„ fom-so	Thine
Nye (or a)-rilla	„ nye-so	His, her, its
Ton'-dilla	„ ton'o-nso	Our
Nyam'-dilla	„ nyam'-so	Your
Bam'-dilla	„ bam'-so	Their

The Possessive Case as expressed in English by '*s*, '*s*', is expressed in Môle simply by the juxtaposition of the two nouns standing for the possessor and the thing possessed, the former standing first :

e. g. The chief's horse = Nab' wefo.

The woman's house = P'ag' yiri.

The Possessive Adjective, *my*, *thy*, *is*, &c., is expressed simply by using the personal pronoun to precede the noun it qualifies :

Mam wefo	My horse
Fo' wefo	Thy horse
&c., &c., &c.	

NOTE.—The possessive pronoun (*vide* above) is also sometimes expressed by this form, the construction then being, instead of saying :

The horse is mine ; to say,

The horse is my horse, *wefo ya mam wefo*.

### (6) INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

The interrogative pronouns are :

*Singular*                      Aai? or ana? who?

*Plural*                        Aairamma? who?

Boi? what?

(*Boi* is pronounced with a faint *w* sound before the *o*, as one would pronounce the English word 'boy', were it spelt *bwoy*.)

*Singular*                      Bugo? which?

*Plural*                        Bushi? which?

These interrogatives are usually coupled with the verb *ya (is)*, and are seldom used standing alone. They then become :

Ya'ai? Ya boi? &c.      Lit. who is it? what is it?

### (7) INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

Ned'fwa (*plu. neb' fwa*). Any one.

Ned'fwa (*plu. neb' fwa*), ka ye. No one.

Fwa. All.

Ato. Another.

Ned Kamfwa. Each.

Ayi' . . . ayi'. One, the other, probably for *yimle*, one, the numeral.







Bum'fwa. Everything.

Bum' ka ye. Nothing.

Zagala. So and so, such and such an one.

Bud'fwa. Every kind.

Ned'ka ye. No one.

Gill'fwa  
Zang'fwa } The whole.

#### (8) THE DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

Nyanwa, *plu.* bamma } This, these.  
Kyana, *plu.* kyemsi }

Ada, *plu.* adba. This one, these ones.

Rilla, *plu.* bamma } That one, those ones.  
Nyenna }

The 'far' demonstrative is sometimes expressed by *hal*, till, and the above, e. g. *hal*, *rilla*.

#### (9) THE RELATIVE PRONOUN

The relative pronoun is expressed by :

*Singular* Nina . . . sē. Who, whom.

*Plural* Nima . . . sē. Who, whom.

The *sē* is placed between the personal pronoun and the verb, e. g.

M'nyaiya ned' *nina* a *sē* ko fom buglauga. I saw the man who gave you the gun.

## CHAPTER III

### THE VERB, ITS TENSES AND CONJUGATION

#### THE VERBS 'TO BE' AND 'TO HAVE'

THE simplest form of the verb (to which suffixes are joined or the various particles added to form the different tenses) is found in the second person singular of the imperative mood. This form also stands for what may be called the 'infinitive mood', though perhaps in this mood the verb really ceases to be a true verb and is in Mōle more of the nature of a noun.

When the various rules for tense formation have been grasped, the verb presents little difficulty.

There is no passive voice. The following tenses are distinctly defined and in common use.

(1) *A Definite Present* of continued action (the indefinite present in the indicative mood seems hardly to be used though it exists, i. e. we have the idea, 'I am doing, now', 'at the present time', expressed, but not the indefinite, 'I do').

(2) *The Imperfect*, past continued action. I was doing.

(3) *The Perfect*. I have done.

(4) *The Past*. I did.

(5) *The Pluperfect* or *Past Perfect*. I had done.





(6) *The Future*. I shall do.

(7) *The Future Perfect*. I should have done.

Of Moods we have the Indicative, the Subjunctive, and the Imperative, and Infinitive.

## RULES FOR THE FORMATION OF TENSES

### 1. Indicative Mood

(A) *Present (Indefinite Time)*, rare. This consists of the simplest form of the verb (*vide* above); e.g. *M'suka*, I ask.

(B) *Present Definite Time*, or present continued action. This is formed by suffixing *da* or *ta* (*d* and *t*, interchangeable letters) to the simple form of the verb, e.g. *M'sukda*, I am asking.

(C) *The Imperfect* (past continued action) is formed in the same manner as the present (definite time) (B) with the addition of the particle *da* preceding the verb; e.g. *M' da sukda*, I was asking.

(D) *The Perfect Tense* is formed by dropping or changing the final vowel (in the simple form) and adding *nya* or *ya*, e.g. *M'sukya*, I have asked.

(E) *The Past Tense* is formed by suffixing *me* to the simple form, e.g. *M'sukame*, I asked.

(F) *The Pluperfect* or *Past Perfect* is formed in the same manner as the Past (E) with the addition of the particle *da* placed before the verb, e.g. *M' da sukame*, I had asked.

(G) *The Future Tense* is the simple form of the verb preceded by the particle *na*, e.g. *M' na suka*, I shall ask.

(H) *The Future Perfect* is formed in the same manner as

the Future (c) with the addition of the particle *da* placed before the verb, e. g. *m' da na suka*, I should have asked.

## 2. The Subjunctive Mood

The subjunctive in use is the simple form of the verb introduced by the conjunction *ti* (generally contracted into *t'*), that: *t'm suka*, (that) I may ask.

## 3. The Infinitive Mood

This, as already stated, is the simplest form of the verb, but is really more of the nature of a noun (or verbal noun), e. g. *suka*, to ask.

## 4. The Imperative Mood

This mood has three persons, the second person singular, the second person plural, and the first person plural.

The second person singular supplies the simplest form of the verb, to which suffixes are added or particles joined to form the various tenses.

The formation of the second person plural is curious and interesting. It is formed by the addition of the suffix *ya* to the simple form, and this *ya* is probably a contraction for *nyamma*, you (the second person plural of the personal pronoun). The idiom in Môle would thus seem to be similar to that of the French (cf. *voyez-vous*).

The first person plural is formed by prefixing the letter *d* (probably for *tondo*) to the simpler form. Examples :

Singular	2nd person	<i>suka</i>	ask
Plural	1st person	<i>d'suka</i>	let us ask
	2nd person	<i>sukya</i>	ask you







Note the negative imperative is expressed by *da*, placed before the verb and *ye* following, e. g. *da suk' ye*, don't ask.

The conjugation of the verb *suka*, to ask, is here given in full:

**Indicative Mood**

*Present* (indefinite time, rarely used).

Singular	{	M' suka	I ask
		F' suka	You ask
		A' suka	He, she, it asks
Plural	{	Tond' suka	We ask
		Nyamb' suka	You ask
		Bam' suka	They ask

*Present* (definite time) or present continued action.

Singular	{	M' sukda	I am asking
		F' sukda	You are asking
		A sukda	He, she, it is asking.
Plural	{	Tond' sukda	We are asking
		Nyamb' sukda	You are asking
		Bam' sukda	They are asking

*Imperfect* (past continued action).

Singular	{	M' da sukda	I was asking
		F' da sukda	You were asking
		A da sukda	He, she, it was asking
Plural	{	Tond' da sukda	We were asking
		Nyamb' da sukda	You were asking
		Bam' da sukda	They were asking

*The Perfect Tense.*

Singular	{	M' sukya	I have asked
		F' sukya	You have asked
		A sukya	He, she, it has asked
Plural	{	Tond' sukya	We have asked
		Nyamb' sukya	You have asked
		Bam' sukya	They have asked

*The Past Tense.*

Singular	{	M' sukame	I asked
		F' sukame	You asked
		A sukame	He, she, or it asked
Plural	{	Tond' sukame	We asked
		Nyamb' „	You asked
		Bam' „	They asked

*The Pluperfect or Past Perfect Tense.*

Singular	{	M' da sukame	I had asked
		F' da sukame	You had asked
		A da sukame	He, she, it had asked
Plural	{	Tond' da sukame	We had asked
		Nyamb' da sukame	You had asked
		Bam' da sukame	They had asked

*The Future Tense.*

Singular	{	M' na suka	I shall ask
		F' na suka	You will ask
		A na suka	He, she, it will ask
Plural	{	Tond' na suka	We shall ask
		Nyamb' na suka	You will ask
		Bam' na suka	They will ask





*The Future Perfect (conditional future).*

Singular	{	M' da na suka	I should have asked
		F' da na suka	You should have asked
		A da na suka	He, she, it should have asked
Plural	{	Tond' da na suka	We should have asked
		Nyamb' da na suka	You should have asked
		Bam' da na suka	They should have asked

**The Subjunctive Mood**

*Present Tense.*

Singular	{	Tm' suka	That I may ask
		Tf' suka	That you may ask
		Ta' suka	That he, she or it may ask
Plural	{	Td' suka	That we may ask
		T yi suka	That you may ask
		Tb' suka	They may ask

**Imperative Mood**

Singular	2nd person	suka	ask
Plural	1st person	d'suka	let us ask
	2nd person	sukya	ask you.

The locative verb 'to be' is (by one of those coincidences one occasionally meets with in the study of languages) *be* (of course pronounced differently).

The copulative verb 'to be' is expressed by *yi*, which is irregular in its conjugation.

The following is the conjugation of these two verbs :

## VERB BE, TO BE (LOCATIVE)

## Indicative Mood

*Present Tense.* M' be I am.

&c., &c.

*Past Tense.* M' da beme I was.

&c., &c.

*Future Tense.* M' na be I shall be.

&c., &c.

*Future Perfect.* M' da na be I should have been.

&c., &c.

## Subjunctive Mood

*Present Tense.* Tm' be (That) I may be.'

## Infinitive

Be To be.

## VERB TO BE, YI (COPULATIVE)

## Indicative Mood

*Present Tense.* M' ya I am.

&c., &c.

*Past Tense.* M' da yime I was.

&c., &c.

*Future Tense.* M' na yi I shall be.

&c., &c.

*Future Perfect Tense.* M' da na yi I should have been.

&c., &c.







**Subjunctive Mood**

*Present Tense.* Tm' yi (That) I may be.  
&c., &c.

**Infinitive Mood**

Yi To be.

**Imperative Mood**

Singular	Yi Be.	Plural	D' yi	Let us be.
			Yi(y)a	Be you.

The verb 'to have' (*not* as auxiliary) is expressed by means of the verb *talle* (lit. to hold).

Its conjugation is as follows :

**Indicative Mood**

*Present Tense* (indefinite time).

M' talle I have.  
&c., &c.

*Present Tense* (definite time).

M' talda I am having, possessing.  
&c., &c.

*Imperfect Tense.*

M' da talda I was having.  
&c., &c.

*Past Tense.*

M' tallame I had.  
&c., &c.

*Future Tense.*

M' na talle I shall have.  
&c., &c.

*Future Perfect.*

M' da na talle I should have had.

**Infinitive Mood**

*Talle* To have.

The Subjunctive and Imperative are wanting, being supplied by the forms of the verb *pam* to possess, to find.





## CHAPTER IV

### ADVERBS, PREPOSITIONS, CONJUNCTIONS, INTERJECTIONS.

#### 1. Adverbs

<i>Mòle</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Example of Use</i>
Kai	Here	Wa kai
Be	There	Chen be
Yama, yamyam, and also expressed by verbs <i>pēya</i> and <i>kolege</i> , to be near.	Near	Tena a pēya (a yama) (a yamyam)
Zara (a verb) Waga	Far	Sore a zara
Yai ?	Where ?	Fo chena yai ?
Halyai ?	Whence ?	Fo yi halyai ?
Jifwa	Wherever	Jifwa m' chename
Ditugu	On the right	Tu ditug' sora
Seaga	Near	Binge seage
Gwoboga	On the left	Tu gwobog' sora
Taure	Before	Loe taure (lit. face)
Pore	Behind	Puguli pore
Nyiniili	On top	Bing nyiniili
Tenele	Under	Bing tenele

<i>Mòle</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Example of Use</i>
Puge	Within	Chē puge
Runde	Upwards	Jes runde
Yiña	Outside	Yi yiña
Yiga	Far away	Chen hal yiga
Kashene	Over these	Binf'yirihalkashene
Dunna	To-day	Mam na wa dunna (lunna)
Beogo	To-morrow	Mam na yiki beogo
Zāme	Yesterday	Mam wame zāme
Dayitta	Day after to-morrow	Ton na yiki layitta
Datatta	Three days hence	Ton na yiki latatta
Dabule ?	When ?	Dabule fo waya ?
Darfwa	Always	Mam be kai darfwa
Pinna	Formerly	Mam da be kumase pinna
Nana, na	(Not) yet	A nan' ka wa ye
Ndeñe (a verb)	First	Mam nden nwa
Darnina	When	Darnina mam wa kai . . .
Nyaule (verb)	After	A nyaule n' wa
Yale	Then	A wa kai yale n cheñe
Zalem	In vain	A wa zalem
Leve. (a verb)	Again	Leve n male
Wusugo	Much	Fo gom wusugo
Bilifu Fífa, Pauda	Little	A kela bilifu (fífa)
Nele	Well	A be nele
Wenga, Nweña	Badly	A mala nweña
Nwanna ?	How ?	Neb nwanna nwa ?







<i>Môle</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Example of Use</i>
Tirega	Straight	Mam cheña tirega
Woto, Boto	Thus	Mala woto
Nwenna	Like	Biga nwenn' a ba
Töre	Different	Nyanwa ne nyanwa ya töre
Wai (like Hausa mana)	Can't you, if you please	Wa wai
Ka . . . ye	Not	Bi a-ka wa ye
Yida (verb, to sur- pass)	More	{ Man yid' fom ne milem Mam mi yid' fom
Ē	Yes	Ē, a waya
Ayo	No	Ayo, a ka wa' ye
Boinyina ?	Why ?	Boinyin' ti fo mal woto ?
Liña	Suddenly	A yikame liña
Ya shida (lit. it is true)	Certainly	
Balla	Only	Lafe balla

## 2. Prepositions

In Môle as in many other African languages the preposition is contained or implied in the verb, e. g.

Yi. To come out, *of* or *from*.

Chene. To go, *to* or *towards*.

Again many words that in certain contexts may be adverbs will in others be prepositions (*vide* 1. Adverbs). The following are the more important prepositions in common use :

<i>Môle</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Example of Use</i>
Ne	With	Mam koalame ne sūga
Kal, Dil	Except	Kō mam bumfwa dil nyañwa
Nyina	Because	A nwē mam ti'm'ka noña nyin ye.
A Zugi (Zugu, lit. head)	On top of	Mam jinta gweile a zugi
Pore	Behind, after	A be tiga pore
Sukka	In the middle	A lwi kōm sukka
Taure ne	In front of	A loga taur' ne mam
Tenere	Beneath	Waf' a gaime kugul tenere
Hal, hal-n-ti-ta	Until	Nyalse hal tim' wa
Pea (a verb)	Close to	Tena apea ne kuluga

### 3. Conjunctions

The following are the commoner conjunctions in use :

<i>Môle</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Example of Use</i>
Ne	And	Mam ne fom
Ti	That	Mam yela t'a cheñe
Bi	Or	Fo tula nyanwa bi nyanwa
Li	But	Mam yela t'a cheñe li ...
Sā	If, when	F'sa ncheñe, fo na nya
Bi . . . bi	Either . . . or	Bi mam, bi fom
Me	Also	Mam me nya
Nanti	In order that	A cheña kuluge nanti nyak' kom





4. The following Interjections are commonly used :

Katto ! Oh bad luck !

Haiya ! Come on !

Hey ! Ho there !

Ho ho ! Derisive.

Wau wau wau !

Way le le le !

Yaisego ! Halt.

} Expressing astonishment.

5. The following are a few common Salutations :

<i>Môle</i>		<i>English</i>	
<i>Greeting</i>	<i>Reply</i>	<i>Greeting</i>	<i>Reply</i>
Chenchende	Nāba or chen belāfe	Hail (on meet- ing)	Chief or all is well
F'yiri be lāfe ?	Lāfe be 'or bala	Is your house well ?	Quite well
F'pagaba be lāfe ?	Lāfe be	Are your wives well ?	Quite well
Ne yibeogo	Nāba	Good-morning	Chief
Nechen zābere	Nāba	Good-evening	Chief
Ne yaibo	Nāba	Greetings to the weary	Chief
Yamyamsi	Nāba	Greetings to the weary	Chief
Ne nyaibo (nyai, to see)	Nāba	Greetings in trouble	Chief
Ne vusom	Nāba	Greetings to the resting one	Chief

<i>Môle</i>		<i>English</i>	
<i>Greeting</i>	<i>Reply</i>	<i>Greeting</i>	<i>Reply</i>
Solom chama ?	Lafe bala	How are all your house- hold ?	Quite well
Ten kaiga ya nwanna ?	Ya lafa bala	What is the news of the town ?	Quite well
Ti shik' ne lafe	Amin	May you alight in safety	Amen
Ne ga	Nāba	Good night	Chief
Fo ga belafe ?	Lafe bala	Did you sleep well ?	Quite well







## CHAPTER V

### THE NUMERALS

THE Moshis have a decimal system of notation having different words for each number up to ten. Eleven, twelve, &c., &c., are then expressed by ten and one, ten and two, &c., &c. The word for ten is *piga* (lit. one ten). Twenty, thirty, &c., are expressed by two tens, three tens, &c., up to one hundred, for which again there is a separate word *kwobaga*. Two hundred, three hundred, &c., up to nine hundred, are then expressed by two times one hundred, three times one hundred, &c., till one thousand is reached, for which again there is a separate word *tusuli* (lit. one time one thousand). Two thousand, &c., &c., are then expressed by multiplication, up to one million, which is called *tus' chemde* (lit. the great thousands).

It is surprising to find the numeration carried to such high figures, nor do the words for the higher numbers seem of Arabic origin as in Hausa. The high numbers were no doubt necessary in the counting of cowries.

#### 1. The Cardinals

The following are the cardinal numbers from one to one million :

1 Ayimle or yimle or ye'	6 Ayōbe or yōbe
2 Ayību ,, yību	7 Ayopoi ,, yopoi
3 Atābo ,, tābo	8 Anī ,, nī
4 Anāse ,, nāse	9 Awai ,, wai
5 Annu ,, nnu	10 Piga (lit. one ten)

11	Pi la yimle <i>or</i> pi la ye	1,000	Tusuli
12	Pi la yību „ pi la yi	1,001	Tusuli la yimle <i>or</i> ye
13	Pi la tābo „ pi la ta	2,000	Tusayi
14	Pi la nāse „ pi la na	3,000	Tusata
15	Pi la nnu	4,000	Tusanase
16	Pi la yōbe	5,000	Tusannu
17	Pi la yopoi	6,000	Tusayōbe
18	Pi la nī	7,000	Tusayepoi
19	Pi la wai	8,000	Tusanī
20	Pishi = pishi yi (lit. two tens)	9,000	Tusawai
21	Pish la yimle <i>or</i> ye	10,000	Tuspīga
22	Pish la yību „ yi	20,000	Tuspishi
30	Pishta	30,000	Tuspishta
40	Pishnāse	40,000	Tuspishnāse
50	Pishnnu	50,000	Tuspishnnu
60	Pishyōbe	60,000	Tuspishyōbe
70	Pishyopoi	70,000	Tuspishyopoi
80	Pishnī	80,000	Tuspishnī
90	Pishwai	90,000	Tuspishwai
100	Kwobaga	100,000	Tuskwobaga
101	Kwobaga la yimle	200,000	Tuskwobsi
200	Kwobsi (= kwobsi- yi)	300,000	Tuskwobsta
300	Kwobsta	400,000	Tuskwobnāse
400	Kwobsnāse	500,000	Tuskwobsnnu
500	Kwobsnnu	600,000	Tuskwobyōbe
600	Kwobsyōbe	700,000	Tuskwobyopoi
700	Kwobsyopoi	800,000	Tuskwobsnī
800	Kwobsnī	900,000	Tuskwobswai
900	Kwobswai	1,000,000	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 5px;">{</div> <div> Tus chemde (lit. great thousand) Tustusa </div> </div>





## 2. The Ordinals

The ordinals are expressed by suffixing the word *soba* plu. *ramma*, to the cardinals.

The word for first is irregular.

1st	{	Pipisoba, plu. Pipiramma
	{	Taursoba, plu. Tauramma
2nd		Yibsoba, plu. Yibramma
3rd		Tabso <sub>ba</sub> , plu. Tabramma
4th		Nasesoba, plu. Naseramma
5th		Nnusoba, plu. Nnuramma
10th		Pigsoba, plu. Pigramma
20th		Pishisoba, plu. Pishiramma
100th		Kwobagsoba, plu. Kwobagramma
1,000th		Tusulsoba, plu. Tusulramma
		&c., &c.

3. The Adverbial Numerals, once, twice, thrice, &c., are expressed by suffixing the word *naule* (lit. sole of foot), cf. an exactly similar idiom in Hausa (*sau*) to the cardinal numbers.

Once	Nau la yimele ( <i>also</i> vuguli)
Twice	Nau la yibu
Thrice	Nau la tābo
Ten times	Nau l' piga

4. Fractional Numbers are expressed by means of the word *wele*, to divide.

$\frac{1}{2}$	Welayibu
$\frac{1}{3}$	Welata
$\frac{1}{4}$	Welanāse
	&c., &c.

## CHAPTER VI

### SOME IDIOMS AND NOTES ON SYNTAX

1. **The Noun Agent** (which can be translated in English by 'owner of', 'master of', and of which the equivalent in Hausa is the well-known form *mai* (plu. *masu*)) is in Mòle expressed by the suffix *soba*, plu. *ramma*, *damma*; its use has already been noted to form the ordinals (*vide* Chap. V). This suffix is also used in forming innumerable compound words, which take the place of the English Adj.

Examples: *teńsoba*, chief, lit. owner of the town.

*dud'soba*, a brave man, lit. owner of bravery.

2. (a) **The Diminutive** is in Mòle formed by suffixing the word *biga*, *bila* to the noun.

Examples: *wedbila*, foal.

*yubila*, kitten.

(b) Diminutives when the noun refers to a person or animal are also formed by the suffixes *sadaga* (fem.) and *libela* (masc.); these words literally mean not having reached puberty.

Examples: *wedsadaga*, filly.

*bi li bela*, boy not reached puberty.

3. **The Gender of Nouns.** Many nouns of common gender are, when it is required to emphasize the gender, made masculine or feminine by suffixing *daugo* (*raugo*), male, and *nyaña*, female, to the noun of common gender.

Examples: *Wednyaña*, mare.

*Nagaraugo*, bull.







4. The enclitic *bī* (*bī* also means or, and it is probably in literally this sense that that is here used) placed at the end of a sentence shows that the sentence is interrogative. An identically similar idiom is found in Ashanti, where *ana*, for *anase*, or, is used, the idiom in both cases being an elipsis for a second clause in co-ordination to the first.

Example: F' watta *bī*? Are you coming? (Lit. You are coming) or (you are not coming.)

5. The Negative 'not' is expressed in Mōle by *ka* (*pa*) . . . *ye*, the *ye* coming at the very end of the sentence. The *ka* is placed between the subject and the verb, and follows any tense particle.

The negative imperative is expressed by *da* . . . *ye*.

Examples:

A *ka na wa lunna ye*. He will not come to-day.

A *ra (for da) ka zāme ye*. He did not come yesterday.

Da *mal' woto ye*. Do not act so.

6. The Definite Article. The definite article is expressed in two ways: (1) In nouns ending in *a* by suffixing the letter *n* or *m*; (2) In nouns ending in *o*, *e*, *i*, or *u*, by changing these letters into *ã* (nasal).

Examples: Mam *nyai wefo*. I saw a horse.

Mam *nyai wefã*. I saw the horse.

Mam *nyai biga*. I saw a boy.

Mam *nyai bigan*. I saw the boy.

N. B. It is worthy of notice that in Hausa, the definite art. is formed as in (1).

### The Formation of Nouns from Verbs

It seems possible to form almost indefinitely at will words which in some cases are the exact forms of the verbs from

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which they are derived. These nouns may be divided into classes: (a) Those expressing the action implied by the verb; and (b) the actor or performer of the action expressed by the verb.

Class *a* are formed by suffixing various particles to the simplest form of the verb. Some of these suffixes are:

*-bo, -do, -go, -ga, -ri or -re, -ra, -rho, -bu, -gu.*

Examples: *Basgo, dibo, kabogo, lado, samogo, banere, zubu, sauga.*

Class *b*. Nouns expressing the actor, or performer of the action, expressed by the verb. Such nouns are formed from the present tense (of continued action).

In the singular they are identical with it, but have a plural which is formed according to the rules laid down in Chap. I, Class VI.

Examples: *nomda plu. nomdba.*

*ko(a)da plu. koadaba, &c.*

### The Sentence

The position of words in a sentence follows for the most part the same rules which are applicable to English.

The Subject precedes the verb.

The Object follows.

(Note the adjective follows the noun. When a verb has a noun as its subject it is not necessary to repeat the pronoun (as is common in so many African languages) before the verb.)

The particle *ti* seems inseparable from almost every sentence in colloquial Mōle and can hardly be rendered in English; constant practice alone will familiarize the student with its use.





# MÖLE-ENGLISH VOCABULARY

## A

abagá, *plu.* abeshi  
 abagà, *plu.* abeshi  
 argifo  
 arzaka, *plu.* arzakasi  
 arzanna

Ba, *plu.* baramma  
 bága, *plu.* báshi  
 bàga, *plu.* bāshi (*adj.*)  
 bagere, *plu.* бага  
 bakka, *plu.* bagashi  
 bala (*adv.*)

balege  
 balem (*adv.*)  
 bam or bamma

bañe  
 bañere  
 banga, *plu.* banshi

## A.

3rd person singular personal  
 pronoun he, she, it  
 leopard  
 flee  
 pocket, pouch  
 fortune  
 paradise

## B.

father  
 dog  
 sick, ill  
 kraal for cattle or sheep  
 swamp, pool  
 quite, only, in salutation *lafe*  
*bala*  
 to shackle  
 slowly  
 they, 3rd person plu. personal  
 pron.  
 to know  
 knowledge  
 chain

barka	thanks
basbo	permission
base	to leave off, desist, stop
basgo	end
basteña	to emigrate (lit. leave the town)
bau	to look for, seek
baure, <i>plu.</i> bauwa	grain store
be	to be
bě	to be ill
bě ( <i>demonstrative adj.</i> )	there
beageda, <i>plu.</i> beagedba	sinner
bealega, <i>plu.</i> beleshi	razor
bege	to offend
begedo	mud
begere	sin, offence
belse	to comfort, to condole with
beñle, <i>plu.</i> beanga	bean
beogo ( <i>adv.</i> )	to-morrow
berle, <i>plu.</i> byeda ( <i>adj.</i> )	big, large
bi	to grow up, also of water to boil
bī ( <i>conjunction</i> )	or
bidi	to stammer
bidiga, <i>plu.</i> bidishi	stammerer
bilifbilifu ( <i>adv.</i> )	little by little
biligi	to roll ( <i>intransitive</i> )
bilim	to roll ( <i>transitive</i> )
bimde, <i>plu.</i> bima ( <i>adj.</i> )	ripe
bindogo, <i>plu.</i> bindotto	latrine (also used by Moshis to express prison)







bingi	to put aside, put away
bingu, <i>plu.</i> bindu	excrement
binshiri, <i>plu.</i> bisa	breast
binshiri	sand
bipugula, <i>plu.</i> kampuguli	maiden
biribla, <i>plu.</i> kamdibili	boy
biskam	butter
bisom	milk
boi ?	what ?
boge	to melt
bole	to call
bolle, <i>plu.</i> bolla	capon
bokko, <i>plu.</i> bogodo	hole
bokko, <i>plu.</i> bagado	shoulder
bokpūga, <i>plu.</i> bagapushi	armpit
bondo, <i>plu.</i> bumbu	thing
bone ( <i>interjection</i> )	bad luck !
bongaila, <i>plu.</i> bongaili	bed
bonina, <i>plu.</i> bonini	evil spirit
boto (woto) ( <i>adv.</i> )	thus
bu	to state a case
bude	to sow
budo, <i>plu.</i> buduba	law
būga, <i>plu.</i> būshi	goat
buglatim	gunpowder
buglaudo, <i>plu.</i> buglado	gun
bugo ? <i>plu.</i> bushi ?	which ?
būgu, <i>plu.</i> būdu	seed, race, tribe, kind
buguli, <i>plu.</i> bugula	small belt worn by girls
bugum	fire
buguvare, <i>plu.</i> buguvaya	cricket

bugwidiga, <i>plu.</i> bugwidshi	flame
bugzose	smoke
buluga, <i>plu.</i> bulshi	well
buluvaugo, <i>plu.</i> buluvado	crested crane
bumfwa	everything
bwobaga, <i>plu.</i> bwobshi	turban
bwonga, <i>plu.</i> bwonshi	donkey
bwosa, <i>plu.</i> bwosramma	beggar
bwoshe	to ask for, to beg

## C.

Chě	to enter, to go in
cheaŋa, <i>plu.</i> chemshi	strong, well
chěga, <i>plu.</i> chěshi	parrot
chěga, <i>plu.</i> chěshi	green or blue
chege	to tear
chele	to remain
chelem	health, strength
chenchende	greetings
cheŋde, <i>plu.</i> chena	departure
cheŋe	to go
chese	to tear in shreds
chěshi	to cause to enter
chi	to die
chige	to pour out
chima	to herd
chinde, <i>plu.</i> china	vagina
chiperaŋga, <i>plu.</i> chiperenshi	pepper
chiugu, <i>plu.</i> chidu	moon, month
chukko, <i>plu.</i> chigido	nest





## D.

D'	We (contraction for <i>tendo</i> )
da	neg. imperative, do not
da (ra)	to buy
dabem	fear
dabo <sup>1</sup>	vaccination (lit. buying)
dabògo, <i>plu.</i> dabòdo	ruin
dafere, <i>plu.</i> dafeya	pack-saddle, pillow
dāga, <i>plu.</i> dāshi	market
daganore, <i>plu.</i> daganoya	doorway
dagende, <i>plu.</i> dagaena	the three cooking-stones or mounds
daige	to float
dam	beer
damme	to stir
dampole	behind (also East)
danyuda, <i>plu.</i> danyuduba	drunkard
dare, <i>plu.</i> daya	day
dasande	conceit
dasanga, <i>plu.</i> dasamshi	young man
dasare, <i>plu.</i> dasaya	stick
dasem	buying (also vaccine)
dasempwiga, <i>plu.</i> dasemp- wisi	desert
datta	to want
dattem	want, need, requirement
dauchada, <i>plu.</i> dauchadba	wood-cutter

<sup>1</sup> Vaccination appears to have been long practised by the Moshia who rub the lymph (from a small-pox sufferer) into an incision, generally on the wrist.

daugo, <i>plu.</i> dado	wood
daugo, <i>plu.</i> dado ( <i>adj.</i> )	male
dauwa, <i>plu.</i> dappa	a male
deamma, <i>plu.</i> deamdeamma	mother-, father-in-law
debe	to set out, start
debere, <i>plu.</i> deba	sleeping-mat
dege	to receive
degem	to be dirty
dehem	to play
delle	to lean against
deogo, <i>plu.</i> dedo	bush-pig
dene	to go in front, precede
di	to eat
di	to press
dibo	food
digi	to drive away
digili	to put down on the ground
dikki	to pick, lift, up
dilla (rilla)	suffix to form possessive pronouns
diri, <i>plu.</i> diya	forehead
ditugo	right (hand)
dōbene	to squat
dōde	to accuse
dōdobo, <i>plu.</i> dwatoba	accusation
doge	to give birth to
dogo, <i>plu.</i> dotto	room
dogom	birth
dole	to pay
dolle, <i>plu.</i> dolnamma	lover
du	to climb







dudchiugu, <i>plu.</i> dudchidu	bladder
dudi	to make water
dudom	urine
dugge	to cook
dugi	to swim
dukko, <i>plu.</i> dugudo	pot
dum	to bite
dumdi, <i>plu.</i> dumma	knee
dunga, <i>plu.</i> dumshi	live-stock
dunga, <i>plu.</i> dumshi	mosquito
dunia	world
dwagada, <i>plu.</i> dwagadeba	relation
dwodaga, <i>plu.</i> dwodshi	accuser

## E.

Emne	to clear the throat
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## F.

Fade	to pay tax
fadogo	tax
fāge	to be thin
fasega, <i>plu.</i> fashi	a worthless person
faugo, <i>plu.</i> fado ( <i>adj.</i> )	light, worthless
fēge	to blow the nose
fibi	to fan
fikka, <i>plu.</i> figishi	a fan
fikki	to empty, to pour out
fili	to whistle
fitilla	lamp

fõge	to sniff at
fom	2nd person sing. personal pronoun
fugu, <i>plu.</i> futtu	cloth
fukko, <i>plu.</i> fugudo	husk, skin
fulfugu, <i>plu.</i> fulfutu	lung
fupim, <i>plu.</i> fupiana	needle
furi	to marry
fushe	to blow
fushêda, <i>plu.</i> fushedeba	tailor
fwage	to snatch away

## G.

Gabere, <i>plu.</i> gaba	thong of hide
gaga	a sleeping-place
gage	to dig
gane	to lie down to sleep
gañe	to step across
gangango, <i>plu.</i> gangado	drum
gäre, <i>plu.</i> gaya	saddle
gäre, <i>plu.</i> gäya	indigo
garweongo, <i>plu.</i> garwendo	snail
gasoba, <i>plu.</i> garamma	host
gedege	to mix
gedi	mane
gele	to count
gele, <i>plu.</i> geya	thigh
gelem	arrow poison
gelle, <i>plu.</i> gella	egg
gêshi	to guard, to watch, to hunt





gi	to lie in wait for
gidigi	to surround
gili	to make round, shape round
gili, <i>plu.</i> gilla	circle
giligi	to walk round
giri	to shake the head
giriga, <i>plu.</i> girishi	piece of anything
gisiga, <i>plu.</i> gishi	thread
go	to walk
gobogo, <i>plu.</i> gobodo	crow
godmisugo, <i>plu.</i> godmisdo	burnous
golongo, <i>plu.</i> golondo ( <i>adj.</i> )	twisted
gom	to talk
gomde, <i>plu.</i> goama	language, word
gomdeasa, <i>plu.</i> gomdeasedba	interpreter
gomgomna, <i>plu.</i> gomgom- deba	talker, babbler
gomtiogo, <i>plu.</i> gomtido	chameleon
gongo, <i>plu.</i> gando	skin
gose	to beg, to ask for
gosogo, <i>plu.</i> gasdo	porch of a house
gu	to guard, to watch
guda, <i>plu.</i> guduba	watchman
gugu, <i>plu.</i> gudu	iron-headed club
gulishi	to write, to mark
gulsugo	writing, marks
guña, <i>plu.</i> gunshi	silk cotton-tree
gure, <i>plu.</i> गया	kola-nut
gushi	to pluck
gusi	to sleep
gusunguga	hiccough

gwaga, <i>plu.</i> gwoshi	thorn
gweile, <i>plu.</i> gweila	chair
gweogo, <i>plu.</i> gwedo	sickle
gwem	sleep
gwoda, <i>plu.</i> gwodaba	hunter (walker)
gwoboga ( <i>adj.</i> )	left
gwodom, <i>plu.</i> gwadaba	march
gyaneba	small-pox
gyaumfo, <i>plu.</i> gyama	top-knot
gyigimde, <i>plu.</i> gyigima	lion

## H.

Hal	from
halhabogo, <i>plu.</i> halhabdo	stirrup
halyai?	whence?

## J.

Jega, <i>plu.</i> jeshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	red
jemde, <i>plu.</i> jema	oyster (fresh-water)
jese	to look at, regard
jetega, <i>plu.</i> jetsi	mirror, reflection
jibo, <i>plu.</i> jidibo (rare)	load
jifu, <i>plu.</i> jima	fish
jifwa	anywhere
jilim	stupidity
jilimde, <i>plu.</i> jilima	tongue
jiga, <i>plu.</i> jishi	place
jigbala	indeed
jim	blood







jimale	evening
jiri	lie
jisima	to be heavy
jisugo, <i>plu.</i> jisudo ( <i>adj.</i> )	heavy
jitta, <i>plu.</i> jitaba (?)	fool

## K.

Ka	to splash
ka	negative, not, with ye
ka	to knock
k'abe	to promise
kabogo, <i>plu.</i> kabodo	promise
kabse	to wink the eye
kadaga, <i>plu.</i> kadshi	nail, peg
kado ( <i>adj.</i> )	raw
kafo, <i>plu.</i> ki	grain
kāge	inspect, visit
kai	here
kai	to boil
kalem	absence
kalenkaga, <i>plu.</i> kalenkashi	hornet
kam	fat, butter, oil
kamande, <i>plu.</i> kamana	Indian corn
kande, <i>plu.</i> kana	spear
kanga, <i>plu.</i> kanshi	arm
kankamde, <i>plu.</i> kankama	fig
kantiga, <i>plu.</i> kantishi	elbow
kao	to break in pieces
karanga, <i>plu.</i> karanshi	louse
karem	to read

karembiga, <i>plu.</i> karemkama	scholar
karemdogo, <i>plu.</i> karemdoto	school
karemsamma, <i>plu.</i> karemsamdamma	schoolmaster
kase	to cry out, shout
kasema, <i>plu.</i> kasamba	an elder
kasenga, <i>plu.</i> kasenshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	big
kasere, <i>plu.</i> kasa	whip
kashetsobo, <i>plu.</i> kashetdamma	witness
katere, <i>plu.</i> kata	hyena
kazuri, <i>plu.</i> kazuya	millet
kelanga, <i>plu.</i> kelenshi	alarm
kelege	to listen
kelem	to cry out
kelle	to remain over, be left
kiba, <i>plu.</i> kibshi	orphan
kibari	news
kikiriga, <i>plu.</i> kikirishi	soul, spirit
killi, <i>plu.</i> killa	faggot
kim	to fry
kīshi	to deny
kishi	to extinguish
kishi	to give
kishi wī	to tatoo
kitabu	book
kō	to give, to present
ko	to hoe, to cultivate
koadā, <i>plu.</i> koadaba	farmer
kōbere, <i>plu.</i> kwōba	bone
kōhōon	hair





kobonweña, <i>plu.</i>	kobon-	a bad man (lit. bad haired)
wenshi		
kodege		to cut the throat
kodere, <i>plu.</i> kwada ( <i>adj.</i> )		brown
kodo		agriculture
kogologo, <i>plu.</i> kogondo		canoe, box
kokke		to notch
kokòdo		spittle
kokole, <i>plu.</i> kokwoya		throat
kokoraugo, <i>plu.</i> kokorado		Adam's apple
kolege		to approach
kolege		to drag, to pull
kōli		to heap up, pile up
kologo, <i>plu.</i> kolōdo		bag, haversack
kōm		hunger
kōm		water
komega, <i>plu.</i> komeshi ( <i>adj.</i> )		hungry
komsa, <i>plu.</i> komsramma		infirm, crippled
( <i>adj.</i> )		
komsa		to be weak, infirm
komse		to hurt
kongo, <i>plu.</i> kini		guinea-fowl
kō nore		to order
konyudu, <i>plu.</i> konyudba		thirsty
( <i>adj.</i> )		
kōse		to trade, to sell
kosogo		to cough
kosom		barter, trade, selling
kowauga, <i>plu.</i> kowado		leather water-bottle
ku		to kill
ku		to fold

kubo	killing, murder
kudogo, <i>plu.</i> kudshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	old
kudfibre, <i>plu.</i> kudfiba	bullet
kuduge	to be old
kudugu, <i>plu.</i> kuttu	iron-worker
kūge	to cut
kuguli, <i>plu.</i> kuga	stone, also strong ( <i>adj.</i> )
kukuli, <i>plu.</i> kukuya	axe- or hoe-handle
kuli	to go home
kuluga, <i>plu.</i> kulshi	river, stream
kum	corpse, death
kumere, <i>plu.</i> kuma	tomato
kundi, <i>plu.</i> kuna	hump
kuni	present
kupwoka, <i>plu.</i> kupogoshi	widow
kūre, <i>plu.</i> kuya	funeral
kureba	top-boots
kūri, <i>plu.</i> kūya	tortoise
kurkuri, <i>plu.</i> kurkuya	pig
kuruga, <i>plu.</i> kurushi	trousers
kusuri, <i>plu.</i> kusa	trap
kuware, <i>plu.</i> kuwaya	groin
kwadanga, <i>plu.</i> kwadanshi	partridge
kwaiga, <i>plu.</i> kwaishi ( <i>adj.</i> )	short
kwainga, <i>plu.</i> kwemshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	dry
kwalega	to snore
kwaña, <i>plu.</i> kwenshi	palm-tree
kwasda, <i>plu.</i> kwasdba	hawker
kwilimbila, <i>plu.</i> kwilimbi	key
kwilinnifu, <i>plu.</i> kwilinnini	lock
kwim	to be lazy







kwima, <i>plu.</i> kwimshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	lazy
kwishi	to dry
kwōasa, <i>plu.</i> kosramma	butcher
kwoshe	to prick
kyaushe	to be lame
kyege	to cut down, slash at
kyelem	strength
kyulugo, <i>plu.</i> kyilido	molar teeth

## L.

La	to laugh
labele, <i>plu.</i> laba ( <i>adj.</i> )	flat
lado	laughter
lafe	well (in salutation)
laga, <i>plu.</i> lase	earthen dish
lagafo, <i>plu.</i> ligidi	cowry
lagem	to assemble
lai	to boil
lake	to stumble
lakke	to separate, avoid
lalaga, <i>plu.</i> lalshi	wall
lamdaugo, <i>plu.</i> lamdado	cotton-tree
lande, <i>plu.</i> lana	testicles
lare, <i>plu.</i> laya	axe
leabda, <i>plu.</i> leabdba	hawker
leauga, <i>plu.</i> leausshi	hook
lebe	to go, to set out
lebse	to revenge, return, pay back
ledege	to alter the position of a thing, to change

lelem	to lick
lemde, <i>plu.</i> lema	chin
lenele, <i>plu.</i> lenga	wooden plate
lepere, <i>plu.</i> lepa	sieve
ligem	to tickle
likka	darkness
lilli	to hide
linga, <i>plu.</i> linshi	calabash, cup
lingi	to take by surprise
lobe	to throw at
lobe	to lay eggs
loboge	to throw away
loe furi	to marry
loe nore	to fast (lit. to tie the mouth)
•lōge	to pass by
lokke	to loosen
lōkke	to answer
lokko, <i>plu.</i> logodo	quiver
lomble, <i>plu.</i> lomma	bell
longo, <i>plu.</i> lamdo	cotton
losbo	black dye
lose	to dye, to immerse in water
lubi	to throw down
lugu, <i>plu.</i> ludu	blister
lwi	to fall

## M.

M'

1st person singular personal  
pronoun  
mother

ma, *plu.* manamma





māgere	coolness, recovery from sickness
makke	to measure
male	to do, to make
malegi	to repair, arrange
malfo, <i>plu.</i> malia	pistol
maltamde, <i>plu.</i> maltama	pawpaw (fruit)
mam	I, me
mande, <i>plu.</i> mana ( <i>adj.</i> )	unripe
mande, <i>plu.</i> mana	okro
mando, <i>plu.</i> mana	sacrifice
mao	to wrestle
marsa	quickly
masom	shade
maure	wrestling
me	to build
melem	dew
melem	to be lost
mi	to know
mikki	to be sour
milungu	custom
mim	to shake
misiga, <i>plu.</i> misidu (?)	sour
misugu, <i>plu.</i> misudu	cakes
miugu, <i>plu.</i> midu	red
Moāga, <i>plu.</i> Moshi	Moshi-man
moaiga, <i>plu.</i> moishi	albino
modega	to compel
mōge	to redden
mōge	jungle, bush
mogodle, <i>plu.</i> mogada	mole

Mōgo

mogo, *plu.* modomogole, *plu.* moga

mogoshe

mokko, *plu.* mogodo

Mōle

molle

mukku, *plu.* mugudumulichem, *plu.* mulichema

munga

murzafo, *plu.* murzana

mwabere

mwama, *plu.* mwamshi

mwi

mwumbu

mwume

Moshiland

grass

river

to suck

white ant

the language of the Moshis

to make a proclamation

dumb person

firefly

to hinder, prevent

beads

to chew

monkey

rice

burial

to bury

## N.

Na

nāba, *plu.* nanamshi

nāba

nāfo, *plu.* nishi

nagashe

nagchima, *plu.* nagchimshi

nage

nagere

nam

namdo

namgulunga, *plu.* namguli

namshe

particle to express future

chief

small-pox (lit. chief) <sup>1</sup>

ox

to beautify

cowherd

to be conceited

pride

kingdom

lead

ground-nut

to punish

<sup>1</sup> Idea being to propitiate and flatter when speaking of.







nana	easy
Nasara, <i>plu.</i> Nasadamma	European
naudre, <i>plu.</i> nauda	sandals
naukasnkare, <i>plu.</i> naukasn- kaya	heel
nauraugo, <i>plu.</i> naurado	big toe
naure, <i>plu.</i> nauwa	foot
nauyega, <i>plu.</i> nauyeshi	toe-nail
ne	and, with
neda, <i>plu.</i> neba	person
nedege	to wash, of pots, calabashes
neke	to waken
nele, <i>plu.</i> nea ( <i>adj.</i> )	beautiful, fine
nelem	beauty
neña, <i>plu.</i> neñshi	face
neongo, <i>plu.</i> nonendo	ostrich
ni	to rain
nifu, <i>plu.</i> nini	eye
ninge	to honour
ninli	honour
ninpakko, <i>plu.</i> ninpagado	eyelid
noaga, <i>plu.</i> noshi	fowl
noanga, <i>plu.</i> nonshi	lover
nobdega, <i>plu.</i> nobedshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	fat
nobe	to be fat
nobitunga, <i>plu.</i> nobitunshi	chicken
nodre, <i>plu.</i> noada	sore
nokobogo, <i>plu.</i> nokobodo	moustache
nom	to make pliable with the hands, as leather
noma, <i>plu.</i> nogo ( <i>adj.</i> )	sweet

nomda, <i>plu.</i> nomdba	tanner, leather-worker
noña	to love
nongo	poverty
noñolom	love, affection
nore, <i>plu.</i> noya	mouth
nugbila, <i>plu.</i> nugbi	finger
nugbinga, <i>plu.</i> nugbini	ring (finger-)
nugilli, <i>plu.</i> nugilla	fist (lit. round hand)
nugraugo, <i>plu.</i> nugrado	thumb
nugu, <i>plu.</i> nushi	hand
nukusuli, <i>plu.</i> nukusa	wrist
nutum	skill in shooting
nwadaga, <i>plu.</i> nwadshi	star
nwāge	to cut
nwakka, <i>plu.</i> nwageshi	hoe
nwama, <i>plu.</i> nwamshi	monkey
nwaule, <i>plu.</i> nwauba	leper
nwē	to flog
nweke	to wring, to twist
nwele	to swear, to take an oath
Nwende	Allah
nwigi	to twist rope, thread
nwiniga, <i>plu.</i> nwinshi	sun
nwude	to put on sandals
nwunni	to hide
nyabe	to bleat
nyaga, <i>plu.</i> nyashi ( <i>adj.</i> )	adolescent
nyāga, <i>plu.</i> nyashi	net
nyage	to glitter
nyagele	to hasten
nyagere, <i>plu.</i> nyago	kraal





nyai	to see
nyakke	to pick out
nyaklande	castration
nyalse	to stop, stand still
nyande	shame
nyanga, <i>plu.</i> nyanshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	female
nyaudo	gluttony
nyaudsoba, <i>plu.</i> nyadamma	glutton
nyaugo, <i>plu.</i> nyado	intestine
nyebega, <i>plu.</i> nyebshi	crocodile
nyede	to fill up, cover over
nyedega, <i>plu.</i> nyelshi	bottom
nyegere, <i>plu.</i> nyega	root
nyekke	to jump, to fly
nyelege	to melt
nyende, <i>plu.</i> nyena	tooth
nyese	to converse
nyëse	to wipe
nyesega, <i>plu.</i> nyeshi	black ant
nyesem	to suckle
nyesogo, <i>plu.</i> nyeshi	conversation
nyigini	to kneel down
nyim	to forget
nyimbo	forgetfulness
nyinga, <i>plu.</i> nyinshi	body
nyinga, <i>plu.</i> nyinshi	reason, cause
nyingtogo, <i>plu.</i> nyintodo	day
nyintosukka	midday
nyitila, <i>plu.</i> nyitili	pimple
nyobe	to crush up, to wrinkle
nyobogo, <i>plu.</i> nyobodo	wrinkle, crease

nyobokko, *plu.* nyobagodo

nyode

nyōge

nyokka, *plu.* nyogoshi

nyokke

nyokke

nyōnele, *plu.* nyōna

nyonge

nyongo, *plu.* nemdonyore, *plu.* nyoya

nyosege

nyubula, *plu.* nyubli

nyudom

nyuga, *plu.* nyushi

nyuligi

nyumshi

nyuri, *plu.* nyuya

nostril

to bend

to burn, set fire to

goldsmith

to think

to catch, seize

rat

to pick out from

meat, flesh

nose

to miss, pass by

neck

drink

navel

to water a horse or ox

to smell

yam

## P.

Pabage

pabe

padageladage, *plu.* padage-

lada

p'aga, *plu.* p'agaba

pagbasbo

pake

palaga, *plu.* palshi (*adj.*)pale, *plu.* pala

palem

pam

to find

to beat

duck

woman, wife

divorce

to open

new

„  
whiteness

to find







panga	small-pox
panga	strength
pare, <i>plu.</i> paya	vagina
pāse	to increase, to add to
pāse	to separate a fight, divide
pauge	to despise
pē	to milk
pedege	to skin, shell, husk
pēge	to praise, to thank
pēgere	praise
pēgnwa	to escort
peke	to wash (clothes)
pēlega	to place beside, close to
pelege	to whiten
pelenyekke	to be startled
pemsem	air, wind
peñere	loan
penge	to lend, to borrow
peogo, <i>plu.</i> petto or pedo	basket
pēse	to adze
pesogo, <i>plu.</i> pishi	sheep
pialaga, <i>plu.</i> pielshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	white
pidi	to fill
pidi	to slip over, as a ring on finger
pidigi	to undress
p'iga, <i>plu.</i> p'ishi	rock
pigishiri, <i>plu.</i> pigisa	wing
p'ile, <i>plu.</i> piya	mat
pile	to glitter
pile	to cover
pilimpiku, <i>plu.</i> pilimpigidu	butterfly

pim, <i>plu.</i> piama	arrow
pishi	to sweep
pisi	to pick up, to find something
pöbole	to fold
pöge	to stink
pogole	to wound
pogologo, <i>plu.</i> pogolodo	wound
pondere, <i>plu.</i> pwana	frog
ponge	to shave
pongo, <i>plu.</i> pona, pondo	razor
pore, <i>plu.</i> poya	the back
pose	to salute
pösogo, <i>plu.</i> pösodo ( <i>adj.</i> )	stinking
pu	to foam, to froth up
puduge	to divide out equally (?)
puga, <i>plu.</i> pushi	belly
pugdba, <i>plu.</i> pugdnanma	aunt
pūgi	to overflow
pugo, <i>plu.</i> putto	farm
pugu, <i>plu.</i> puttu	flower
pugubu	dust
pugula, <i>plu.</i> puguli	cap
pukki	to emerge
pukore, <i>plu.</i> pukwaba	an unmarried woman
pusomdi, <i>plu.</i> pusoma	crevice
pusugo, <i>plu.</i> pusdo	greetings
putere	memory
pwi	to divide up, distribute
pwiri, <i>plu.</i> pwise	part, fraction
pwoshe	to escape
pyakka, <i>plu.</i> pyegeshi	slap

## R.

Words heard under this letter may be looked for under D.

## S.

Sa	if
sabe, <i>plu.</i> saba	spur
sablega, <i>plu.</i> sableschi ( <i>adj.</i> )	black
sabtwasega, <i>plu.</i> sabtose	civet-cat (?)
sabugum	lightning
saga	rain-storm
saga	diarrhoea
sagado	sweepings, rubbish
sagagomteugo	rainbow (lit. the chameleon of the sky)
sagale	to advise, reprove
sagologo	advice, blame
sai	to finish
sake	to obey, consent, agree
sakedega, <i>plu.</i> sakedeshi, ( <i>adj.</i> )	obedient
salaga, <i>plu.</i> salshi	slippery
salav(e)le, <i>plu.</i> saleba	bridle
salege	to slip
salem	to caress, to stroke
salema	gold
sam	to destroy, to spoil
sama, <i>plu.</i> samdamma	father
samde, <i>plu.</i> sama	debt
same	to suspect
samogo	suspicion

sana, <i>plu.</i> sama	stranger
sapilimde, <i>plu.</i> sapilima	hail
sāsi	to smooth, to plaster
sau	to dance
sauga, <i>plu.</i> saushi	dance
sawadogo, <i>plu.</i> sawatto	cloud
saya (?), <i>plu.</i> saba	blacksmith
sebdega, <i>plu.</i> sebdeshi	belt
selemde, <i>plu.</i> selema	lizard
selempialega, <i>plu.</i> selem- pielshi	white drill (calico)
shē	to sow
sheaga, <i>plu.</i> sheshi	waist
shege	to meet
shegele	to prepare
shegobo	meeting
shele	to stick in the ground
shemde, <i>plu.</i> shema	porcupine
shida, <i>plu.</i> shidaba	husband
shida	truth
shido	honey
shigi	to descend, ( <i>intransitive</i> )
shikke	to put down, ( <i>transitive</i> )
shilenga, <i>plu.</i> shilinshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	pointed
shilsi	to point, sharpen the end of
shinge	to begin
shini	to be silent
shiniga, <i>plu.</i> shinshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	silent
shiri	to sigh
shore	to hide (oneself)
sibere, <i>plu.</i> siba	book





sibiga, <i>plu.</i> sibishi	an antelope
sifu, <i>plu.</i> sî	bee
silale, <i>plu.</i> silala	swallow
siliga, <i>plu.</i> silishi	hawk
sînogo	happiness
sisi	to touch
so	to hold, to possess, to have
soamma, <i>plu.</i> somshi	hare
sobogo	wind, tornado
sõge	to rub
sõgone, <i>plu.</i> sõgonamma	a court official
solege	to hide something
solom	possessions
solomde, <i>plu.</i> soloma	story
somitta, <i>plu.</i> somitba	guide
songe	to help
sonolom	help
sõre	morning about 7 A.M.
sõre, <i>plu.</i> soya	road
su	to bathe
subo	bathing
sudu	rubber
suga, <i>plu.</i> sushi	knife
sûgi	to trot
sukke	to ask
sukure	question
sulega, <i>plu.</i> suleshi	spider
sungo, <i>plu.</i> suma ( <i>adj.</i> )	good
suntiga, <i>plu.</i> suntishi	rubber-tree
sûre, <i>plu.</i> suya	grasshopper
suri, <i>plu.</i> suya	heart



swase  
swasega  
swi

to converse  
conversation  
to put in

## T.

Ta  
tabe  
tabene  
tabrukko, *plu.* tabrugudo  
tagere, *plu.* taga (*adj.*)  
takke  
talle  
tametta, *plu.* tametba  
tampigri, *plu.* tampiga  
tampiri, *plu.* tampiya (tam-  
piba)  
tanga, *plu.* tanshi  
tappo, *plu.* tabado  
tapsoba, *plu.* tabramma  
tau  
tauga, *plu.* taushi  
tawa, *plu.* tappa  
teaugo, *plu.* tedo  
teaugo, *plu.* tedo  
têge  
têge  
tegge  
teke  
tenempisem

to reach, arrive at  
to trample on  
to adhere to  
pipe  
thick  
to pull  
to have (*lit.* to hold)  
mason  
brick  
bastard  
  
hill  
bow  
bowman  
to shoot  
a trap  
sister  
grain mortar  
load  
to remember  
to stretch  
to rub  
to change  
rust





tenga, <i>plu.</i> tenshi	town, earth, soil
tibi	to stumble
tibiri, <i>plu.</i> tiba	spur on cock
tiga, <i>plu.</i> tishi	tree
tige	to be satisfied, satiated
tigem	to collect, assemble ( <i>int.</i> )
tigemgu	crowd
tigiri, <i>plu.</i> tiga	festival
tigishi	to collect ( <i>trans.</i> )
tikiri	a mark
tikki	to touch
tim	medicine
tipeda, <i>plu.</i> tipedba	doctor
tipi	to cure
tiriga, <i>plu.</i> tirishi ( <i>adj.</i> )	straight
tisimne	to sneeze
tisungu, ( <i>plu.</i> ?)	sneeze
to	to beat, to pound
tobege	to pinch
todbeogo	dawn
todoge	to refuse, to disobey
todogere	refusal
tōge	to be able
tōgo	ability
togo, <i>plu.</i> todo ( <i>adj.</i> )	sour, bad tempered
togose	to relate, to tell
togosntale	to copy
toke	to drop (of liquid)
tokore	a drop
tōlobo	trading
tolom	difficult

tompegelem	ashes
tonge	to join
tore, <i>plu.</i> twaya	different
tú	to dig
tù	to follow
tubele, <i>plu.</i> tuba	ear, (also small barbed 'eared') spear
tubi	to repent
tublengo, <i>plu.</i> tublemdo	ear-ring
tubshi	to spit
tubsugo	spittle
tudbila, <i>plu.</i> tudbi	pestle
tudi	• to miss the road (?)
tudntaga, <i>plu.</i> tudntashi	companion
tudugi	mistake
tuge	to depart
tukki	to carry
tula, <i>plu.</i> tulshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	hot
tulegi	to sweat
tulla	to want, to love
tulsom	wish, desire
tum	to send, to work
tuma	work
tūnshi	to choose
tusa, <i>plu.</i> tusdba	impudent
tushe	to swear at, curse
tusugo	insult, curse
twadega, <i>plu.</i> todshi	boundary
twaiğa, <i>plu.</i> twaishi	baobab-tree
twanna, <i>plu.</i> twanaba	trader
twi	to pierce





## V.

Va	to knock off (as fruit off a tree)
vabene	to prostrate one's self
vaugo, <i>plu.</i> vado.	leaf
velege	to call to mind, to understand (?)
velem	open space
vesege	to move
vikki	to pull up, uproot
vili	to wind round
vingu, <i>plu.</i> vidu (vina)	owl
viugo	opening
vōge	to pull up
voli	to swallow
vore, <i>plu.</i> voya	opening
vudugi	to make an opening in
vugi	to drag along the ground
vukka, <i>plu.</i> vugushi	earth mound
vuse	to rest
vusom	rest
vwim	life

## W.

Wa	to come
wabaga, <i>plu.</i> wabshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	lame
wafo, <i>plu.</i> wishi	snake
wagadem	theft
wagadre, <i>plu.</i> wagada	thief



wagere, <i>plu.</i> waga ( <i>adj.</i> )	thin
wakiri	money
walege	to throw water on
walem	whisper
walem	flame
walongo	whisper
wamde, <i>plu.</i> wama	calabash
wande, <i>plu.</i> wana	dove
wanzurfu, <i>plu.</i> wanzuria	silver bracelet
watampelega, <i>plu.</i> watem- pensi	egret
waugere	to honour
waugere	honour
webāga, <i>plu.</i> webashi	wild dog
wedega, <i>plu.</i> wedeshi	half
wedudu, <i>plu.</i> weduduba	horseman
wefo, <i>plu.</i> widi	horse
wegeshi	to split
wekke	to hatch out eggs
welege	to divide
wenga, <i>plu.</i> wenshi	bad
weogo, <i>plu.</i> wedo	jungle, 'bush'
wese	to bark
wesibo	bark (of dog)
wibiga, <i>plu.</i> wibshi	sparrowhawk
wifu, <i>plu.</i> wi	firefly (?)
wiga, <i>plu.</i> wishi	horn, whistle
wiligi	to show, teach
wiligimensoba, <i>plu.</i> wiligi- mensamma	boaster
willi, <i>plu.</i> willa	branch





winge	to heat, make hot
wobnugu, <i>plu.</i> wobnushi	trunk of elephant (lit. hand)
wobogo, <i>plu.</i> wobodo	elephant
wobnyende, <i>plu.</i> wobnyena	tusk (elephant)
woge	to shorten
wogodo	cold
wogolom	length
wokko, <i>plu.</i> wogodo ( <i>adj.</i> )	tall
woshe	to warm one's self at the fire
wūbi	to rear, bring up
wūbi	to vomit
wukki	to swell
wum	to hear
wumbo	hearing
wuri	to reap
wushi	to bake

## Y.

Ya	to be
yaba, <i>plu.</i> yabramma	grandparent
yabaga	arrow poison
yagada, <i>plu.</i> yagadeba	potter
yagado	clay
yagale	to hang up
yagale, <i>plu.</i> yada	cheek
yai	to be tired
yaibo	weariness
yakka, <i>plu.</i> yageshi	neighbour
yalaga, <i>plu.</i> yalshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	foolish

yale	to trouble, torment
yalem	breadth
yalma, <i>plu.</i> yalmshi	fool
yām	cleverness, shrewdness
yama, <i>plu.</i> yamshi	slave
yamkili, <i>plu.</i> yamkila	bundle of grass
yamne	to yawn
yamsom	salt
yande	East
yau	to pay
yaudo	payment
yaugo, <i>plu.</i> yado	grave
yawa, <i>plu.</i> yappa	younger brother
yēle	to speak, to say
yele, <i>plu.</i> yea	jaw
yelege	to dress, put on clothes
yelle	sin
yemde, <i>plu.</i> yama	hippo
yemdo	slavery
yi	to come out from
yibeogo	early morning
yibrongo, <i>plu.</i> yibrondo	vulture
yibu	exit
yidigi	to untie, unravel
yige	to surpass
yiki	to rise up
yile	to sing
ville, <i>plu.</i> yila	song
yiri, <i>plu.</i> yia	house
yishi	to take (cause to come) out
yiugo, <i>plu.</i> yido	tongs, pincers





yoadā, <i>plu.</i> yoadba	adulterer
yodele, <i>plu.</i> yōda	knot
yodele, <i>plu.</i> yoadba	prostitute
yoge	to filter, sift, strain
yogo, <i>plu.</i> yodo	foolish
yogore, <i>plu.</i> yoaga	pumpkin
yokko, <i>plu.</i> yogodo	hollow
yole, <i>plu.</i> yoya	penis
yoleshi	to relax, get better, untie
yologo, <i>plu.</i> yondo	sack
yongo, <i>plu.</i> yamdo	fodder for horses
yuga, <i>plu.</i> yushi	eat
yūle, <i>plu.</i> yuya	name
yugumde, <i>plu.</i> yuguma	camel
yugumpende, <i>plu.</i> yugum- peana	hedgehog
yumde, <i>plu.</i> yuma	year
yuna	to drip
yungo, <i>plu.</i> yundo	night
yusi	to prowl about

## Z.

Za	to mend, to patch
zabe	to fight
zabere	fighting
zābere	evening
zabtassa, <i>plu.</i> zabtasramma	a quarrelsome person
zadere, <i>plu.</i> zadi	tape-worm
zagese	to refuse



zai	to pillage
zakem	to scratch
zakongo	scab, sore
zalem	worthless
zalle, <i>plu.</i> zala ( <i>adj.</i> )	naked
zalzale	tepid
zam	to pile up, collect in one spot
zambe	to cheat
zamse	to teach, to learn
zamzanga, <i>plu.</i> zamzamsi	bat
zappa, <i>plu.</i> zapramma	shoemaker
zarem	distance
zasem	to dream
zasongo	dream
zekke	to lift up
zema	equal
zemse	to measure
zemsego	arrangement
zi	to be ignorant of
zinde, <i>plu.</i> zina	axe
zipele, <i>plu.</i> zipiala	plain
ziri	a lie
zitta, <i>plu.</i> zitiba	carrier
zoanga, <i>plu.</i> zonshi ( <i>adj.</i> )	blind
zobogo, <i>plu.</i> zobodo	hair
zode	to belch
zodo	friendship
zoe	to run
zolomdo	stupidity
zom	flour





zome	to mount
zone	to bend down, to lower
zu	to steal
zubu	theft
zugu, <i>plu.</i> zuttu	head
zुकुगुरे, <i>plu.</i> zukuga	leather pillow
zulum	depth
zulum	red ants
zulungu, <i>plu.</i> zulumshi	deep
zunzuri, <i>plu.</i> zunzuya	caterpillar
zuputtu	brains
zūre, <i>plu.</i> zuya	tail
zūri, <i>plu.</i> zuya	bracelet
zwa, <i>plu.</i> zwanamma	friend
zwago, <i>plu.</i> zoshi	fly
zweshi	flight

## BY MR. R. S. RATTRAY

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